

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 188245  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW  
APPROVED BY NEA:HHAUNDERS  
S/S-O:TMARTIN

-----056834 260151Z /75

O 260128Z JUL 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 188245

EXDIS FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, LE, SY

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS TO SYRIANS ON BEIRUT FIGHTING

REF: STATE 187079

1. WE WERE JUST ON THE TELEPHONE WITH PARKER IN BEIRUT AT 2100 BEIRUT TIME JULY 25. HEAVY MORTAR BOMBARDMENT OF HADATH AREA HAS BEGUN AGAIN. SHELLS ARE FALLING IN SURROUNDING AREAS AS WELL, INCLUDING EXTREMELY CLOSE TO EMBASSY RESIDENCE IN YARZE. PARKER SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO LOCAL INHABITANTS, AS MANY AS TWO-THIRDS OF THE HADATH AREA'S RESIDENTS HAVE FLED. SPANISH EMBASSY TOOK SIX SHELLS, AND AT LEAST ONE HOSPITAL WAS HIT BADLY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 188245

SYRIAN SHELLING DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE DOING DAMAGE TO THE PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, BUT IT IS BECOMING A CATASTROPHE FOR OTHER INHABITANTS. EARLIER TODAY, ACCORDING TO PARKER, HADATH AREA WAS FILLED WITH ARMED MEN AND THE SITUATION WAS RIPE FOR PROVOCATIONS AND INCIDENTS.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU SHOULD URGENTLY GET IN

TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE SYRIAN OFFICIAL TO REGISTER DEEP  
U.S. CONCERN OVER THIS CONTINUED FIGHTING. YOU SHOULD SAY  
THAT YOU ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REQUEST THAT THE SYRIANS,  
ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS ALONE, CEASE THEIR BOMBARDMENT OF

THE BEIRUT AREA. YOU SHOULD SAY TO THE SYRIANS THAT,  
WHATEVER THE PROVOCATIONS THEY HAVE HAD TO ENDURE, THEIR  
RESPONSE IS LIKELY TO BE SEEN AS DISPROPORTIONATE. THEY  
THUS WILL RISK BEING CRITICIZED BY INTERNATIONAL OPINION  
IN A WAY THAT WILL TEND TO UNDO MUCH OF WHAT SYRIA HAS  
BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS IN ENDING THE  
CIVIL CONFLICT, AND IN PRESERVING SECURITY AND LAW AND  
ORDER.

3. DRAWING ON OTHER POINTS REFTEL, YOU COULD MAKE CLEAR  
THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT SYRIA INTENDS  
TO ACHIEVE IN THESE HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS AND WOULD APPRECIATE  
CLARIFICATION. AT YOUR DISCRETION YOU MIGHT EXPAND ON YOUR  
OWN RECENT SPECULATION THAT SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION  
ON THIS SITUATION IS UNCOORDINATED. YOU SHOULD GIVE AS  
OUR OWN CONCLUSION THAT THE CHRISTIAN CIVILIAN INHABITANTS  
OF THESE BOMBARDED AREAS WILL NOT TURN AGAINST THE MILITIA-  
MEN WHO MAY HAVE BEEN ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR  
PLIGHT, BUT WILL INSTEAD DIRECT THEIR ANGER AT THE SYRIANS.  
MAKE CLEAR -- AS IN REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS -- THAT THE U.S.  
WANTS TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE SYRIANS ON WAYS TO  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 188245

FIND A RESOLUTION TO THIS CURRENT PROBLEM.

4. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON IS ON VACATION IN  
SYRIA. WE ARE CALLING IN SYRIAN CHARGE, AND WE ARE CON-  
SIDERING TALKING TO SYRIAN UN AMBASSADOR SHOULFI. WE  
PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO REMOBILIZE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE  
STEPS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN IF FIGHTING CONTINUES.

VANCE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 188245  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

S/S-O:DSCOTT

-----080311 270102Z /61

O 262043Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE 8927

S E C R E T STATE 188245

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 188245 ACTION DAMASCUS INFO BEIRUT  
TEL AVIV JERUSALEM AMMAN CAIRO JUL 8.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 188245

EXDIS FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, LE, SY

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS TO SYRIANS ON BEIRUT FIGHTING

REF: STATE 187079

1. WE WERE JUST ON THE TELEPHONE WITH PARKER IN BEIRUT AT  
2100 BEIRUT TIME JULY 25. HEAVY MORTAR BOMBARDMENT OF  
HADATH AREA HAS BEGUN AGAIN. SHELLS ARE FALLING IN  
SURROUNDING AREAS AS WELL, INCLUDING EXTREMELY CLOSE TO  
EMBASSY RESIDENCE IN YARZE. PARKER SAID THAT, ACCORDING  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 188245

TO LOCAL INHABITANTS, AS MANY AS TWO-THIRDS OF THE HADATH  
AREA'S RESIDENTS HAVE FLED. SPANISH EMBASSY TOOK  
SIX SHELLS, AND AT LEAST ONE HOSPITAL WAS HIT BADLY.  
SYRIAN SHELLING DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE DOING DAMAGE TO THE  
PARTY ORGANIZATIONS, BUT IT IS BECOMING A CATASTROPHE FOR  
OTHER INHABITANTS. EARLIER TODAY, ACCORDING TO PARKER,  
HADATH AREA WAS FILLED WITH ARMED MEN AND THE SITUATION  
WAS RIPE FOR PROVOCATIONS AND INCIDENTS.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU SHOULD URGENTLY GET IN  
TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE SYRIAN OFFICIAL TO REGISTER DEEP  
U.S. CONCERN OVER THIS CONTINUED FIGHTING. YOU SHOULD SAY

THAT YOU ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO REQUEST THAT THE SYRIANS,  
ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS ALONE, CEASE THEIR BOMBARDMENT OF

THE BEIRUT AREA. YOU SHOULD SAY TO THE SYRIANS THAT,  
WHATEVER THE PROVOCATIONS THEY HAVE HAD TO ENDURE, THEIR  
RESPONSE IS LIKELY TO BE SEEN AS DISPROPORTIONATE. THEY  
THUS WILL RISK BEING CRITICIZED BY INTERNATIONAL OPINION  
IN A WAY THAT WILL TEND TO UNDO MUCH OF WHAT SYRIA HAS  
BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS IN ENDING THE  
CIVIL CONFLICT, AND IN PRESERVING SECURITY AND LAW AND  
ORDER.

3. DRAWING ON OTHER POINTS REFTEL, YOU COULD MAKE CLEAR  
THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT SYRIA INTENDS  
TO ACHIEVE IN THESE HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS AND WOULD APPRECIATE  
CLARIFICATION. AT YOUR DISCRETION YOU MIGHT EXPAND ON YOUR  
OWN RECENT SPECULATION THAT SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION  
ON THIS SITUATION IS UNCOORDINATED. YOU SHOULD GIVE AS  
OUR OWN CONCLUSION THAT THE CHRISTIAN CIVILIAN INHABITANTS  
OF THESE BOMBARDED AREAS WILL NOT TURN AGAINST THE MILITIA-  
MEN WHO MAY HAVE BEEN ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 188245

PLIGHT, BUT WILL INSTEAD DIRECT THEIR ANGER AT THE SYRIANS.  
MAKE CLEAR -- AS IN REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS -- THAT THE U.S.  
WANTS TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE SYRIANS ON WAYS TO  
FIND A RESOLUTION TO THIS CURRENT PROBLEM.

4. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON IS ON VACATION IN  
SYRIA. WE ARE CALLING IN SYRIAN CHARGE, AND WE ARE CON-  
SIDERING TALKING TO SYRIAN UN AMBASSADOR SHOUFI. WE  
PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO REMOBILIZE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE  
STEPS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN IF FIGHTING CONTINUES.

VANCE

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE188245  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MDRAPER:PDW  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780305-1010  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780718/aaaaapcj.tel  
**Line Count:** 211  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** faf7576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 187079  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1879181  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPRESENTATIONS TO SYRIANS ON BEIRUT FIGHTING  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PINS, PINT, LE, SY  
**To:** DAMASCUS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/faf7576c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014